

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) An optical connector comprising:

a housing having a cord receiving hole portion and a mounting hole, the cord receiving hole portion receiving an optical fiber cord to be inserted along an axis of said optical fiber cord in a cord insertion direction, the mounting hole disposed along said cord receiving hole portion; and

a stopper including a plate-like portion having a positioning slit between blade portions, the positioning slit having a width slightly smaller than a diameter of said optical fiber cord, each of the blade portions being formed by a side edge of said positioning slit joined at a right angle to a distal end edge of said plate-like portion; wherein

said plate-like portion of said stopper can be inserted into said mounting hole along said cord receiving hole portion in a stopper insertion direction perpendicular to the cord insertion direction of said optical fiber cord;

said housing has stopper retaining portions for holding said plate-like portion of said stopper, said stopper retaining portions engaging a retaining side of said plate-like portion and having a cross-section perpendicular to the cord insertion direction of said optical fiber cord; and

when said stopper is inserted into said mounting hole along said cord receiving hole portion, said each of said blade portions penetrates into a covering portion of said optical fiber cord, with the positioning slit being perpendicular to the axis of said optical fiber cord, while said each of the blade portions removes a portion of said covering portion, thereby fixing said optical fiber cord along the axis of said optical fiber cord; and

reverse blades are formed on and project from each of the opposed side edges of said positioning slit toward the inside of said positioning slit, said reverse blades being directed in a direction generally opposite to the direction of insertion of said plate-like portion.

2. (Previously Presented) An optical connector according to claim 1, wherein said stopper includes a pair of said plate-like portions interconnected by an interconnecting piece portion in parallel relation to each other, so that said stopper has a generally U-shape when viewed from a side thereof; and

when said stopper is inserted into said cord receiving hole portion, said pair of plate-like portions fixing said optical fiber cord along the axis of said optical fiber cord.

3. (Previously Presented) An optical connector according to claim 1, wherein the side edge of said positioning slit for said each of the blade portions projects a gable wedge having a cross-section corner along a thickness midline of the side edge for said each of the blade portions, the cross-section corner extending toward said positioning slit.

4. (Previously Presented) An optical connector according to claim 1, wherein the distal end edge of said plate-like portion slants from a first cross-section face of said plate-like portion to a second cross-section face of said plate-like portion.

5. (Cancelled)